

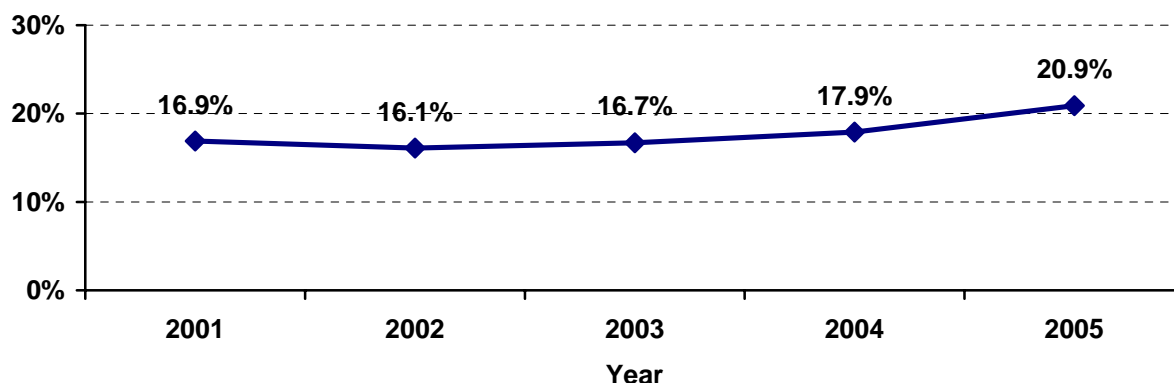
## J. HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Uninsured people are less likely than people with health insurance to have a primary care provider; to have received appropriate preventive care, such as current mammograms; or to have had recent medical visits. Lack of insurance also affects access to care for relatively serious medical conditions. Evidence suggests that the risk of premature death increases considerably for people without health insurance over an extended period and that death rates of hospitalized patients without health insurance are significantly higher than among patients with insurance.<sup>1</sup>

In 2005, 20.9 percent\* of Arizonans reported they did not currently have health care coverage (Figure J-1). This is the third straight increase since 2003. Improving access to health care is a *Healthy People 2010* objective, an initiative which sets a goal of increasing the proportion of adults with health insurance to 100 percent.<sup>1</sup> There is also a *Healthy Arizona 2010* objective, with a goal of increasing the percentage of persons with health care coverage to 90 percent.<sup>3</sup>

### Survey Question:

*Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?*



**Figure J-1.** Percentage of Arizona BRFSS respondents who reported they did not have health coverage in 2001-2005.

Males (24.1 percent) were more likely than females (17.8 percent) to lack health care coverage. Both genders experiencing an increase in 2005 from 2004. Differences in health care coverage were discernible among age, education, income, race and ethnicity categories (Table J-1). As age increases, the percentage of respondents with health care coverage increases. Respondents aged 18-24 (39.8 percent) and 25-34 (29.2 percent), were least likely to have coverage. Rates for all age groups increased from the 2004 rates. Arizonans with less education were more likely to lack health care coverage. Respondents with less than a high school education (48.8 percent, a considerable increase over the 2004 rate) were significantly less likely to have coverage than the other educational levels. All levels of education experienced increases in 2005 from 2004 rates. Respondents earning less than \$15,000-\$24,999 were the least likely to have health care coverage (39.4 percent, increasing over the

\* 95% Confidence Interval: 18.2%-23.7%.

rate in 2004) followed by those earning less than \$15,000 (38.9 percent, decreasing from 2004). Significant differences were also found between race and ethnic groups. While 44.2 percent (higher than in 2004) of Non-Whites lacked health care coverage, only 10.5 percent (essentially unchanged from 2004 rates) of White respondents did not have coverage. Similarly, 48.5 percent of Hispanics were not covered by health care insurance while only 12.4 percent of Non-Hispanics lacked coverage. For both ethnic groups the rates increased from 2004.

#### **References**

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, November 2000.
2. Arizona Department of Health Services. *Healthy Arizona 2010: Collaborating For A Healthier Future*, March 2001.

<b>Arizona BRFSS: Respondents Without Health Care Coverage</b>			
GROUPS	WEIGHTED PERCENT		2005 N*
	2004	2005	
<b><u>Sex</u></b>			
Male	20.2	24.1	297
Female	15.6	17.8	453
<b><u>Age</u></b>			
18-24	33.5	39.8	69
25-34	27.9	29.2	151
35-44	17.8	26.7	171
45-54	15.5	17.2	177
55-64	13.3	13.6	146
65+	1.3	1.6	36
<b><u>Education</u></b>			
Less than High School	37.4	48.8	178
High School Graduate/GED	21.5	26.3	254
Some College/Tech School	14.2	16.1	179
College Grad	9.4	10.0	138
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
<\$15,000	44.1	38.9	132
\$15,000-\$24,999	28.1	39.4	232
\$25,000-\$34,999	20.7	26.4	98
\$35,000-\$49,999	6.7	17.5	86
≥\$50,000	5.8	8.0	96
<b><u>Race</u></b>			
White	10.4	10.5	305
Non-White	35.4	44.2	436
<b><u>Ethnicity</u></b>			
Hispanic	39.2	48.5	352
Non-Hispanic	11.8	12.4	394

**Table J-1.** BRFSS results: Arizona respondents with no health care coverage. \*N is unweighted